News Regarding Herbal Medicine to Cure AIIMS

2910. SHRIMATI VYJAYANTIMALA BALI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE by pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in "Times of India" dated 21st July, 1994 that a practitioner of indigenous Siddha system of medicines based in Tamil Nadu Dharampuri District has claimed to contain the symptoms of AIDS with the help of herbal medicines and that many patients cured who were on the verge of death; and

(b) if so, the name of the herbal medicine and efforts made by Government to give clinical trials on the patients suffering from AIDS whose number runs in millions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Council of Medical Research has informed that in the proposal submitted to the Council by the said Siddha Practitioner, the name and formulation of the medicine used has not been provided and it has been decided that such claims can be examined by an Expert Group constituted for the purpose.

Legislation for firm implementation of AIDS control programme

2911. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a World Bank team is currently touring the country to survey the efficiency of AIDS control programme;

(b) whether it is a fact that many States have failed to ground AIDS control programmes; and

(c) what are the details of the steps Government are taking to legislate sufficient powers so as to ensure firm implementation of anti-AIDS programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) An International Development Association (IDA) Mission visited India from 24-7-94 to 6-8-94 to review the progress of implementation of the AIDS Control Project.

(b) It is true that the pace of implementation is not even throughout the country.

(c) Government has impressed upon all the States to take up all the necessary steps to improve the pace of implementation of the programme. There are no proposals to introduce any legislative measures in this respect.

Poor Management of Eye Donation Programme

2912. SHRI AHMED MOHMEDBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether millions of people in Asian countries, whose eyesight can be restored through a corneal transplant operation, remain blind all their lives because eye donation programmes are poorly managed;

(b) if so, whether the International Federation of Eye Banks in its recent survey has said that problem was particularly acute in India because most of the people whose cornea had torned were young people;

(c) if so, what are the main reasons for poor management in eye donation programmes in the country;

(d) whether Government are considering to manage the eye donation programmes efficiently so as to restore the eye sight to the suffering people in India; and